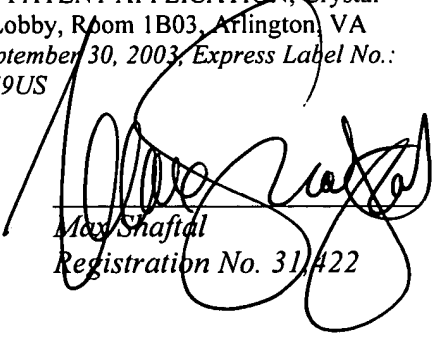


VACUUM SPLINT DEVICE

Abstract

5 A vacuum splint device for securely immobilizing an injured limb or other body part. The device includes a plurality of T-shaped straps for insertion through slots on the sleeve of the device. Each strap may be folded over the slots and back upon itself to fasten the end of the strap to the device. The sleeve of the device includes a plurality of particles that are initially separated by air to allow for the device to be flexible. Once
10 placed on the injured body part, the air may be removed from the device using an intake/exhaust valve tube assembly to compress the particles together to form a substantially rigid sleeve. A filter on the valve tube assembly ensures that the particles remain within the sleeve. Once the air is removed from the device, a clamp may be used on the tube of the valve tube assembly to prevent any air from flowing into the tube.
15 Upon removal of the device from the injured limb, the straps may be removed from the device for replacement or washing. Air may be introduced into the sleeve by undoing the clamp so as to allow air to reenter the interior and separate the particles and allow the device to be folded.

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